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my onions, as a sample of the general size.

Note—The onions alluded to in the preceding paper, sent by Mr. Macdonald, were much admired by all the members who were present at the meeting.

The Committee for Prizes unanimously voted to Mr. Macdonald an extra medal for this communication; and it was thought advisable that it should be printed in the first number of the Memoirs, that every gardener may have it in his power to try the mode of cultivation which he has recommended during the ensuing season. It will give much satisfaction to the Society if those who make trials will communicate the result to Mr. Neill, Secretary.

Method practised in Germany of bleaching Virgin Wax.

(From the Annales des Arts et Manufactures.)

In Germany they bleach virgin wax rather by simple exposure to the air than by chemical means. This method indeed is longer, but also the most economical.

In following this process, they begin by melting the yellow wax in water, and when melted it is left to deposite for a longer or shorter time. The water and the dregs precipitate slowly to the bottom of the vessel, afterwards the wax is wound round a cylinder, which is turned in the water. By this means it is divided into very thin flakes, of from three to four inches long. They also use for dividing the wax large shears, which are put in motion by the simple mechanism of a water-wheel.

When the wax is thus divided it is put upon vast frames, furnished with linen cloth, and left exposed to the immediate action of the air and light. These two agents combined, gradually take out the colouring substance, and with the greater facility from its being reduced into thin flakes. In this manner, at about the end of three months, the wax is rendered completely white.

When the heat of the sun is too strong, the wax will become tough, and will unite, unless care be taken to turn it two or three times a day, and to moisten it when the water is judged to be entirely evaporated. But it is always observed that when the sun has been ardent enough to melt the wax, it is no longer capable of acquiring the degree of whiteness of which it was previously susceptible. But as a great quantity of water, which will be spread over its surface, must necessarily injure it, sheds are disposed at the sides of the places where it is spread. Lastly, in order to inclose the wax with facility, grooves are made in the frames which are in the open air, and by which the platforms containing the wax are expeditiously drawn out.

When the wax has lost its yellow colour it is collected in order to be re-melted; the finest and driest parts keep at the top, the thick part precipitates in the tub, and settles between the water and the good wax. This separation occasions a waste in the wax of about one per cent.

This operation terminated, the wax is again formed into thin flakes, and exposed, as before, to the power of the sun, where it is left until it is judged to be completely bleached; it is then formed into lumps, which are once more exposed to the sun, in order to give the wax its highest lustre. When once the wax has acquired the utmost degree of whiteness of which it is susceptible, if it is left any longer exposed to the light of the air, its brilliancy far from being augmented, will, on the contrary, be considerably diminished.

In following the second method, they begin by melting the yellow wax, and when it is melted they pour into it a solution of lime in oxygenated muriatic acid. Care must be taken that the solution be neuter; that is, that it have not an excess of acid; for if the muriatic acid predominate it will render the wax lumpy. After the solution is poured in, the mixture must be strongly agitated until the wax becomes completely white. By this process the acid seizes on the colouring substance, and speedily destroys it, but less perfectly than by the simultaneous action of the light and the air.

This last process has the advantage over the first, of being more expeditious, of not requiring spacious premises, and of being practicable at all seasons; but it has also the disadvantage of being less economical, and of never producing such a brilliant white.

Memoir on the Employment of Oxygen Gas in various Cases of Suffocation. By M. Sementini.

(From the Annales de Chimie.)

The object of the work which I now